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EL DIARIO HOPES FOR HEMISPHERIC PRESSURE ON CHILE

PY061728 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 2 Feb 79 p 2 PY

[Editorial: "The Trap of Bilateralism"]

[Text] From that ignoble proposal contained in the so-called "basis" when in the height of the conflict Chile proposed that the Bolivian Government commit a breach of faith against its ally--which was rejected and reported to Peru--to the unfortunate Charana "embrace," the southern neighbor has tenaciously sought to prevent our claim for an outlet to the Pacific from becoming a continental problem, which is currently happening, instead of a bilateral one.

Logically, if at any time the opportunity arises for negotiations between Bolivia and Chile to seek a solution for the 100-year-old conflict, it will have to be between representatives of the two countries. Something similar occurred in the Panama Canal case. American awareness, forged through the years by taking note of the claims which the United States was receiving from Panama, pressured the will of the U.S. people and obviously of those who govern them. Eventually, this pressure forced them to think introspectively and changed that awareness into an act of international decency by noting that no one can trample with impunity and with the force of arms the rights of any nation. We have a thorough knowledge of what happened last year between the world's major superpower and the small isthmian country.

We Bolivians cannot refrain from submitting our suffocating problem to the continent and we must try to see that our arguments have conviction, something which is currently beginning to happen, and that our difficulties and our dependence are not just a bilateral matter, but a matter which pertains to all the nations of the new world and that it is on their understanding, their sense of justice, that the return of Bolivia's sea outlet, without territorial compensation, depends.

To speak another type of language, to adopt a different position, would mean playing into the hands of the bad neighbor's traditional intrigue. This newspaper, the interpreter of national desires, cannot accept a soft line in the bilateral negotiations because it means that we will always come away the losers.

Chile has played its bilateral cards not only with Bolivia, but also with Peru and Argentina, and when the time arrives it has always avoided decisions. At least, it has served to keep the country on its guard in order not to repeat the naivete of the recent past and thus become true puppets in the hands of an intelligent diplomacy which knows where it is going and which also knows our weaknesses. These weaknesses consist only of the belief that a given action by the government, the Foreign Ministry or simply an embassy will bring about our geographical integration. It is clear that international policy is dynamic. This we proved when the nations of the new world came to understand that continental peace and harmony cannot be achieved if there is no satisfactory solution to conflicts such as the one which has persisted for 100 years now between an attacked and pillaged country and another which is increasing its territorial patrimony and its collective wealth based on the tenet "to the victor belongs the spoils."

Finally, during the institutional recess and until the handing over of power, the temptation of new openings between Santiago and La Paz must be frozen. This is because it is quite possible that with the Argentine-Chilean conflict at a standstill and with the unjustified friendship between Santiago and Lima in a state of deterioration another "bilateral" game may be attempted. It must be believed that in view of our last experience we will not fall into another trap this time.

PAZ ESTENSSORO FAVORS MAINTAINING BREAK WITH CHILE

PY061641 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0325 GMT 6 Feb 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 5 Feb (LATIN)--Former Bolivian President Victor Paz Estenssoro has proposed that an agreement with Peru be sought before resuming negotiations with Chile on Bolivia's landlocked situation. The two-time president and now presidential candidate of his party, the Nationalist Revolutionary Party (MNR), said in a speech that "there is no need for a hasty reestablishment of diplomatic relations with Chile." Those relations were broken in March last year after negotiations on Bolivia's maritime problem failed.

Speaking for 1 and 1/2 hours to 600 delegates to his party's convention, Paz Estenssoro told them that "it does not hurt us in any way not to resume relations with Chile. On the contrary, that fact is a constant reminder in the eyes of the world of the injustice committed in the aftermath of the Pacific war."

On 14 February Bolivia is going to mark the 100th anniversary of the Pacific war in which Bolivia, fighting with Peru against Chile, lost 120,000 square kilometers of a corridor to the ocean.

Paz Estenssoro also referred to the "ratio of forces" between Chile and Bolivia, which he said is 6 to 1. He then said that "any government assuming power on 6 August should formulate a model of economic and social development which allows for the strengthening of our armed forces to reduce that disadvantage."

The political portion of his speech focused on subjects related to the general elections called by the armed forces on 1 July. Speaking about the past 15 years of military government, Paz Estenssoro said that "they were not good for improving the armed forces." Paz Estenssoro was president of Bolivia for two terms, 1952-56 and 1960-64. Paz Estenssoro told the convention which proclaimed him presidential candidate for the 1 July elections: "If we take the reins of government, we will have to strive to improve and strengthen our armed forces."

MNR, PDC NAME CANDIDATES FOR JULY ELECTIONS

PY060132 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2210 GMT 5 Feb 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 5 Feb (TELAM)--Victor Paz Estenssoro, three-time Bolivian president, was proclaimed today by his party, the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR), as presidential candidate in the forthcoming July elections. The MNR special convention reelected Paz Estenssoro as head of the movement and gave him broad powers so that he, along with the political committee, can make pacts and alliances necessary for the forthcoming electoral process. The Christian Democratic Party (PDC) ratified its pact with the MNR and elected lawyer Luis Ossio Sanjines as vice presidential candidate to run with Paz Estenssoro in the elections.

1979 BUDGET APPROVED; EDUCATION RECEIVING LARGEST SHARE

PY070145 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 2 Feb 79 p 1, 3 PY

[Summary] The government has approved the 1979 budget for the public sector. The total amount is 13,196,677,800 Bolivian pesos and education has the largest share with 3,264,385,800 pesos. The other main areas include national defense with 1,864,682,000 pesos; transport and communications with 1,359,265,400; social security and public health with 1,088,214,000; planning and coordination with 292,990,600; finance with 469,169,800; industry and commerce with 298,547,300; and mining and metallurgy with 175,536,100.

FIGUEIREDO'S RELATIONS WITH SAO PAULO GOVERNMENT VIEWED

PY031844 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 2 Feb 79 p 3 PY

[From the "Notes and Information" page by C.C.: "Figueiredo Will Continue To Ignore Maluf's Acts"]

[Text] Some time ago Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo to establish direct communication channels with Sao Paulo by going around or over the government of Paulo Maluf. That decision was reinforced recently when the Secretariat of the successor of current Governor Paulo Egydio became known. The future president does not intend to close his eyes to reality as far as Sao Paulo is concerned, much less to close his ears to the state's wishes and suggestions no matter who expresses them--businessmen, workers, students, clergymen or any other sector. The future president is fully aware of the fact that today the country's largest state is the main laboratory of economic, social and even political experiments. Still, he will talk with Sao Paulo only through his own personal agents, leaving aside the so-called "Maluf group," i.e., the state government to be inaugurated on 15 March, although formally recognizing its existence.

Sao Paulo men who will participate in the incoming federal cabinet or in the incoming administration's second echelon, such as Delfim Netto, Murillo Macedo, Miguel Calasuonno and others, will take care of particular developments within their respective areas of responsibility, or even problems involving more than one area of responsibility. Other ministers, although not Sao Paulo citizens, will also talk and listen to the state's influential forces, as well as convey to them official directives and answers to the claims made by Sao Paulo to the Planalto Palace.

In short, the isolation of the Maluf government will be an essential part of the strategy of the federal government headed by General Figueiredo, who was deliberately left out of deliberations to appoint the state government Secretariat and who is somewhat shocked by the audacity of the future governor, who went from an understandable position of independence to a position verging on defiance.

Members of General Figueiredo's team have pretended that the incoming Sao Paulo governor did not even fulfill promises he made to himself by disregarding the example set by the federal government. To line up his cabinet, General Figueiredo sought to bring together representatives of different groups and currents of thought. Maluf, however, did the opposite, making no effort to bring into his Secretariat representatives of different sectors of the National Renewal Alliance, such as Paulo Egydio, Abreu Sodre, Laudo Natel, Raphael Baldacci and Carvalho Pinto. Maluf haughtily disregarded the various political forces supporting the revolution and did not bother to conduct the selection process more openly. He made "his group" and cannot expect them to truly reflect the state's reality.

Since he has isolated himself, the new Sao Paulo governor will remain isolated, but the federal government, which cannot disregard the Sao Paulo society, will resort to other mechanisms and means of talking with that society.

It should be pointed out that General Figueiredo does not intend to adopt hostile attitudes toward or put pressure on the Maluf government. Maluf will have to fend for himself--that is, he will have to perform his role as best he can. However, none of his plans or programs, if they are in accordance with Brasilia's main directives, will be blocked or delayed. He will be able to avail himself of the federal machinery in matters falling under the responsibility of every ministry. But he should not hope that his voice in political, economic or social questions will be heard as that of the whole state. [paragraph continues]

His isolation will be the price Maluf will have to pay not only for his independent attitude, which up until the choice of his Secretariat would have been tolerated, but also for his audacity, not so much in not accepting General Figueiredo's choice of Paulo Natel as the next Sao Paulo governor, as in defiantly and openly opposing Figueiredo's conciliatory ways by forming his personal group and disassociating himself from others who could rally behind a broader objective. Since General Figueiredo's team deemed it proper not to accept any interference or suggestions offered quietly by Maluf, the Sao Paulo governor-elect retorted by not accepting suggestions from the team. Because of all this the communication between the Planalto Palace and Sao Paulo society will have to use a different code which will not include the initials of the new governor as symbols.

OFFICIALS COMMENT ON ECONOMIC TIES WITH CHINA

FY022306 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 1 Feb 79 p 27 FY

[Text] Itamaraty official Paulo de Tarso Flecha de Lima said yesterday that Brazil has good possibilities for competing with Australia and India in supplying iron ore for the PRC's steelmaking program, which contemplates the production of 60 million tons of steel by 1985. During his lecture at the closing of the seminar on Brazilian-PRC trade relations, Flecha Lima pointed out to Brazilian exporters the new market prospects created by "the PRC's firm and resolute reentry into international trade."

The Itamaraty representative announced the visit to Brazil of two PRC delegations and probably of PRC Foreign Trade Minister Li Qiang [Li-Chiang] and Metallurgical Industry Minister Tang Ke [T'ang K'o]. Flecha de Lima also said that, in contacts with PRC authorities in recent months, he had been able to identify four areas that should be further examined in the relations between the two countries.

1. Joint ventures in varied sectors such as steelmaking, ore processing, electrical energy, port installation and equipment, transport, land vehicles, oil exploration, public projects, home appliances and consumer goods;

2. Exchange of technology in areas in which Brazilian technology may be appropriate for the PRC's needs and vice versa;

3. Compensatory trade whereby one country sells to the other complete industrial units for production of goods to be exported in order to pay for the units acquired previously; and

4. Joint production or trade in association, in which the two countries jointly undertake, according to their potential and needs, the production of certain goods earmarked for domestic consumption or export.

The Itamaraty ambassador recommended that Brazilian businessmen maintain a truly objective attitude in their negotiations in the Chinese market, sending to the PRC only those representatives holding full decisionmaking power. He also recommended all possible care in the preparation of visits to that country so as not to waste time in trips for which negotiating partners have not been defined in advance.

Mines and Energy Minister Shigeaki Ueki said yesterday that the PRC may shortly become one of Brazil's largest oil suppliers. He explained that Chinese oil has a quality similar to that of Bahia oil, and that it has already been satisfactorily tested in Brazilian refineries. The mines and energy minister gave that information during the first seminar on Brazilian-PRC trade relations. He also explained that distance will not hamper the development of greater trade between the two countries if the ships' holds are properly utilized on return trips.

According to Minister Ueki, the import of PRC oil will not be more expensive than imports from the Persian Gulf. Ueki said: "At present we export iron ore to Japan in ships whose holds return empty to the Persian Gulf where they load oil, a procedure which delays trips and increases freight cost."

Ueki advised seminar participants on how to intensify operations in the Chinese market. He strongly recommended commercial missions to China to compete with its traditional suppliers, such as Japan, a country which sent nearly 10,000 businessmen to Peking in 1978 alone.

According to the minister, freight cost can be considered a secondary factor, "because there are possibilities of lowering it." Ueki also recommended forming pools of manufacturers of the same product, with the support of state organizations, such as Interbras and Bank of Brazil, if possible.

O ESTADO DISCUSSES CARTER-DENG COMMUNIQUE

PY060300 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Feb 79 p 3 PY

[From the "Notes and Information" page: "Repercussions of Deng's Appropriate Charge"]

[Excerpts] In our last commentary entitled "Deng's Visit and Carter's Fears" we expressed our conviction that despite the Soviet threats and the positions taken by the U.S. press, which is incidentally quite sensitive to Moscow's warnings, President Carter could not sign a joint communique with his illustrious visitor which would make no reference to the two powers' rejection of the USSR hegemony policy. After all, the main reason which prompted the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and China was precisely their common interest in fighting and countering Soviet expansionism. Despite Carter's attempts to tranquilize Moscow after the resumption of diplomatic relations with Beijing [Peking], noting that this action will promote peace (which is indeed true) and that it is not aimed against any third power (which would be true in the improbable case that the USSR gave up its expansionist goals), the terms of the communique on the reestablishment of relations clearly demonstrate that Washington and Beijing have not only concluded an (objective, in the communist jargon) alliance but also that a Washington-Beijing-Tokyo axis has been formed. This in turn affects NATO, at least indirectly.

The fact is that the Tokyo-Beijing axis, formed through the treaty on peace and friendship signed between China and Japan, was extended to include Washington upon the reestablishment of relations between the United States and China.

It was because of the common interests the two countries share in many regions of the world and because of the logic and coherence stemming from the resumption of diplomatic relations that President Carter and his guest, Deng Xiaoping [Teng Hsiao-ping], issued a joint communique at the end of their talks reaffirming their common commitment.

The two parties strongly believe that this cooperation is in the best interests of their two peoples and also in the best interests of peace and stability, both in the world and in the Asian and Pacific regions.

The reference to the Asian and Pacific regions is indicative not only of the areas in which the two powers have common interests, but also of the hegemony they intend to fight. Although there may be some who consider that this document is not important, the Soviet Government, TASS and Anatoliy Dobrynin, the Soviet ambassador in Washington, have demonstrated that they consider it highly significant by asking the United States to clarify Washington's idea of hegemony and by inquiring why the U.S. Government--the government of a free country--tolerated Deng Xiaoping's remarks. [paragraph continues]

The Soviets, however, have gone too far with their imperialism, since they feel they can openly further their expansionism and even prohibit Western powers, superpowers themselves, from criticizing their expansionist, belligerent actions. Do they perhaps want to "Finlandize" the United States itself? Does Mr Brezhnev perhaps intend to have President Carter yield to his demands by merely lifting his heavy eyebrows?

For his part, Deng Xiaoping knows what he is talking about when he mentions the threat of a war which could be initiated by the Soviets. Or perhaps the Chinese leader should remain silent on the concentration of Soviet and Vietnamese troops at the Chinese borders?

ANGLO-FRENCH VENTURE TO BUILD JET TURBINES

PY061335 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 5 Feb 79 p 13 PY

[Excerpt] Sao Paulo--Rolls-Royce Limited of Great Britain and Turbomec of France have signed an agreement to form a joint venture under the name of Rolls-Royce-Turbomec do Brasil to operate in the field of gasoline-powered airplane turbines in South America, according to information given by Geoffrey T.R. Cochrane, superintendent of Rolls-Royce Motors of Sao Bernardo do Campo.

The new enterprise, which will be formally created in a location and at a time still to be determined, will expand the motor maintenance and repair services of the two parent companies in Brazil. The parent companies already work together in Europe, where they manufacture the Adour turbo-fan which is used in Setcat Jaguar and British Aerospace Hawk planes.

The first engines to be manufactured by the new company in Brazil will have the Arriel turbine which is used in the French Ecurreil and Dauphin-265 helicopters. The assembly, repair and testing operations will initially be done by Rolls-Royce of Sao Bernardo do Campo.

Those engines will be used in the helicopters to be manufactured by the Ibras, a joint venture whose participants are the Government of Minas Gerais and the Societe Nationale Industriale Aerospatiale of France.

DROUGHT DAMAGES CROPS IN SAO PAULO STATE

PY051548 Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 5 Feb 79 PY

[Excerpt] While lands along the Parana River are being flooded, lands in western Sao Paulo are suffering from the parching effects of a lack of rain for more than a month. Crops of rice, corn, beans and cotton have suffered combined losses of up to more than 35 percent. The regional agricultural division of Presidente Prudente revealed that rice crops are affected most heavily with losses of 45 percent; soybean losses were 35 percent; cotton, 30 percent; and peanuts, 5 percent.

Soybean plantations in Rio Grande do Sul have been damaged by the drought to the extent of 17 percent of the land area sowed in the state. This information was given by the state's agriculture secretariat, which predicted that the worst effects are yet to be felt in this year's second half because cattle herds are beginning to be affected by the lack of grazing area.

NEW TERRITORIAL VIOLATIONS ON NICARAGUAN BORDER REPORTED

PA061944 Paris AFP in Spanish 1720 GMT 6 Feb 79 PA

[Text] San Jose, 6 Feb (AFP)--New violations of Costa Rican territory on the Nicaraguan border were reported today by inhabitants of the San Carlos area.

According to their reports, Nicaraguan Air Force [?Skyraider] planes overflew Tiricias and El Concho, strafing several places on Costa Rican territory. These charges are added to others this week of repeated incursions by Nicaraguan troops in Costa Rican border areas. Peasants of the region have withdrawn to sites farther away from the border and the government announced that it had dispatched a Civil Guard contingent to the scene.

CARAZO TO MEET PANAMANIAN PRESIDENT IN MARCH

PA061834 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo will meet with Panamanian President Aristides Royo on 3 March at the border area of Sixaola. They will discuss projects launced by the two countries some time ago. The programs involve the joint development of sugar, lumber exploitation and other projects which President Carazo now wants to update.

INTERIOR MINISTER DENIES CATTLE RUSTLING REPORTS

PA061734 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Interior Minister Juan Jose Echeverria Brealey said once again on television last night that no cattle rustling has been detected along the border. The minister also referred to the policy the central government is pursuing in regard to fishing by foreign tuna boats.

Echeverria also referred to matters that have reached the press and given rise to controversies with cattle growers, deputies and Juan Munoz Bustos, president of the Institute of Lands and Settlement [ITCO].

When questioned about the recent statements assailing his attitude toward cattle rustling, the ITCO president said: I would rather listen to the interior minister speak about the cattle rustling and then grant an interview on the subject. Cattle rustling is a very sensitive matter and I will continue to struggle against it.

WORKERS VOTE TO STRIKE AGAINST BANANA COMPANY

PA061338 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Feb 79 PA

[Hugo Espinosa report from Golfito via telephone]

[Excerpts] As we had reported directly from Coto 47 the banana workers have decided at a general assembly to go on strike. Labor leaders said this was the result of the failure of negotiations with the Costa Rican banana company. The central strike committee will issue the call at any time. However, we have unofficially learned at the southern zone that the strike will probably begin at 2400 today, 6 February.

Investigators, in their unrelenting war against those who seek to create chaos and undermine the country's institutional bases, in raids in different parts of the country confiscated 5,624 weapons ranging from revolvers to the most sophisticated combat weapons.

Authorities applying legal means contained in the constitution conducted a huge operation which, through a series of raids, especially in Bogota, Cali and Bucaramanga, led them to installations built especially to store considerable amounts of arms and ammunition. They also found dens where kidnaped citizens were being held until huge ransoms were paid.

The armed forces, following security policies drafted by President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala such as dismantling subversive groups, drug traffickers and common criminals, have dealt crippling blows resulting in the arrest of several highly dangerous individuals.

In one of the most important operations, military authorities confiscated the following supplies, which include about 95 percent of the material stolen from the EIM northern area: 5,624 weapons of different calibers; 58,146 rounds of ammunition of different calibers; 20 M-K2 fragmentation grenades; 1,233 clips for different weapons; 15 vehicles used for subversion; and 1,000 uniforms used exclusively by the army and police force.

Security agents are maintaining surveillance over 26 homes located in various parts of Bogota. These homes were abandoned by people whom investigators regard as members of subversive groups.

COLUMNIST CALLS FOR CONTINUED EFFORTS AGAINST M-19

PA042028 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 31 Jan 79 p 2 PA

[Article by Gustavo Tobon Londono: "A National Purpose"]

[Text] For several days we have been seeing front-page news on the army's blows to the M-19 movement. Even the terminology has changed sides. The words "blow," "deal," "spectacular," "risky," "incredible" and many others once referred to the actions of the illegal movement. Now they are used to describe the actions of the national army, which has been regaining prestige lost when the humiliating arms robbery occurred.

The "caches" found--the underground arms depots, the various strategic hideouts around the city, the thousands of weapons and ammunition of all kinds and levels of sophistication, the enormous amount of propaganda discovered--very clearly point to the fact that the M-19 is an extremely dangerous organization. Make no mistake about this. Its leaders and members were not playing at being guerrillas. They were set on it; it was their goal. They sought the complete disruption of order and unbounded action of social forces. They were preparing to wage war and unleash violence. To say this perhaps makes some people skeptical. To many the M-19 was something nice and familiar that did not go beyond taking over Bolivar's sword, painting walls and sending a few photographs of masked individuals along with high-sounding communiques to all the papers. It was a false image because their tasks included kidnaping, robbery, assault and murder. The heinous slaying of Jose Raquel Mercado at the hands of the M-19 showed everyone the insensitivity and propensity for torture that its members have.

This movement, heir to the procedures and tactics used by the Montoneros and Tupamaros, was very well financed. Money from ransom notes and robberies was put into bogus companies which had huge accounts totaling millions of pesos and much urban property. It was a powerful, well-organized, well-financed organization posing a real danger to the state. Fortunately, it is being effectively fought off and its weapons, money, property, plans and projects have been confiscated. [paragraph continues]

The human organization still needs to be dissolved. Its leaders and chieftains still need to be found out and unmasked in order to be able to say that the movement has been dealt a coup de grace and is on the brink of expiring.

In this process of dissolving the movement, the government has resorted to appropriate constitutional measures. However, many voices can already be heard claiming human rights violations. Investigations must be thorough, and this involves arresting many people. Surely there will be some who are not involved, but if they are really innocent they will go free. There is talk of repression, torture, mistreatment without proof. This is a good tactic that is welcome in many circles. The army's work, so effective thus far, is obstructed by the stream of rumors and logorrhea of the leftists. The latter do not see flagrant human rights violations in the actions of the M-19. Has the treatment given to kidnap victims been good? The mere act of kidnaping, together with physical and mental torture, is inadmissible and should be punished. Why then do they now raise a protest against the army and forget atrocities committed by the M-19? There are definitely many useful fools who unwittingly play into the hands of subversive organizations.

The success achieved so far must not be lost by abandoning the thoroughness of the investigations. The work of the government and the army must continue until the complete extinction of the movement is a proven fact. We must provide our full support to the authorities in accomplishing that aim. It is time to show that a solidarity movement against crime, kidnapings and human rights violations is possible in our country. The extinction of subversive movements must be a national goal.

ELN GUERRILLAS SEIZE THEATER IN BOGOTA

PA052143 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1500 5 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 5 Feb (EFE)--According to the urban police, several members of the National Liberation Army (ELN) occupied the Quiroga Theater today in a heavily-populated neighborhood of southern Bogota and harangued 1,300 spectators.

The seizure took place less than 24 hours after the Colombian Government announced that it had totally wiped out subversion in the country after dismantling the M-19 terrorist movement which was responsible for the spectacular theft of weapons from a military depot on 2 January.

The guerrillas, led by a hooded woman, posted subversive propaganda on the theater's walls and distributed pamphlets among the spectators, reports the police communique. After the occupation, the police evacuated the building since it was announced that several bombs had been planted. The guerrillas showed several subversive films and then escaped quickly in a car that had been waiting with the motor running in front of the movie theater.

NEW OIL DEPOSITS DISCOVERED IN EASTERN PLAINS

PA030227 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Feb 79 PA

[Text] The Colombian Mines and Energy Ministry reported today that it has found new oil deposits in the eastern plains of Colombia near the Venezuelan border. These deposits, estimated at 2 billion barrels, are located in an area that starts in the Orinoco in Colombian territory and includes sections of Meta and Vichada.

MORE ON OIL EXPORT IRREGULARITIES, COMPTROLLER'S RESIGNATION

PA061620 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 6 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Comptroller General Luis Hidalogo Lopez yesterday presented his irrevocable resignation to the Supreme Council of Government. His resignation came shortly after he walked out of a work session at the National Palace during which two generals accused him of seeking to bring about the downfall of the regime, of favoring transnationals and of being a "legalistic" comptroller while at the same time the comptroller of a dictatorship.

In his resignation note, the comptroller said that the guarantees of independence and impartiality of his office have been undermined. He said to the press upon entering his office that he had been invited by Gen Guillermo Duran Arcentales to a work session at the National Palace in which Minister of Natural Resources and Energy Gen Eduardo Semblantes Polanco; Gen Rene Vargas Pazzos and Gen Luis Pineiros, officials of the Ecuadorean State Petroleum Corporation [CEPE] and the Hydrocarbons Department; and other government officials were present.

It was a very cordial meeting, he added, until charges were voiced against me regarding the CEPE audit report to the effect that I had acted as a defender of the transnationals, that with the report I was seeking to bring about the government's downfall and, something more, which I thought was remarkable, I was asked how a legalistic comptroller could be the comptroller of a dictatorship.

In view of these grave accusations by two generals of the republic, Hidalgo added, I asked for permission to withdraw and expressed to Gen Guillermo Duran Arcentales my intention to write my resignation and submit it immediately.

When asked if he was resigning because he accepted the charges, Hidalgo answered that the charges would undermine his moral authority and said that he had to defend himself from the charges as a citizen and not as comptroller general.

Natural Resources Minister Gen Eduardo Semblantes asked the Supreme Council of Government not to accept the comptroller general's resignation until a definite clarification is made of the audit. General Semblantes made the demand upon hearing that Hidalgo had presented his resignation.

Also, the manager and legal representative of Texaco Petroleum Company in the country, William Benton, said that in effect he had received the audit from the comptroller general's office, which he considered had no legal foundation, and in 60 days would present all the necessary arguments and proof to refute it.

In a press communique, Natural Resources Minister Gen Eduardo Semblantes said that the comptroller had sent him and the former acting chief of the Hydrocarbons Department, Julio Granja, an audit report calling for a reply by Texaco Gulf in 60 days in connection with an excessive appropriation of petroleum, consisting of an excess of barrels over and above its quota, exported by Texaco between January and November 30 of 1977. The volume had been assessed at 1.209 million barrels by a commission composed of representatives of hydrocarbons, CEPE, and Texaco. This figure was contained in a ministerial agreement, but the comptroller's office, when it examined CEPE's financial accounts, found that the volume determined by the commission was erroneous and that, actually, Texaco's excess exports during the period were 4.794 million barrels of petroleum.

The minister said that this does not mean that the error is in any way harmful to the state but, rather, that actually CEPE now has (?priority) rights over the difference in the excess figures.

DURAN REAFFIRMS MILITARY'S INTENTION TO RELINQUISH POWER

PA061418 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 6 Feb 79 PA

[Text] There will be no dictatorship of Gen Guillermo Duran Arcentales, but rather joint action by the triumvirate to return the country to a constitutional status, said the member of the Supreme Council of Government to a television commentator in Guayaquil.

Duran said on that occasion that no force on earth will be able to change the armed forces' word of honor which has been given, and that the legal process for the return of power to civilians will end in August of this year.

Duran Arcentales said that much pressure was being exerted by small groups who were determined to disrupt the plan of return, adding that they do not want elections to be held and are applying every pressure to prevent them.

LEADING PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES EXPRESS VIEWPOINTS

PA061626 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 6 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Presidential candidates Jaime Roldos Aguilera and Sixto Duran Ballen, who are in first and second place respectively entering into the second electoral round, expressed on a Quito television program their various viewpoints regarding the current political situation in the country. With Diego Oquendo presiding as moderator, face to face the candidates of the Coalition of Popular Forces [CFP] and the Social Christian Party outlined their government platforms if the Ecuadorean people should elect them.

There were some points of coincidence, especially those related to the country's critical situation, the process of return to constitutional status, and the actions of some members of the armed forces which do not necessarily reflect on the institution but which must be definitely clarified by the government. The latter was a reference to the Abdon Calderon Munoz murder case in which former Government Minister Gen Bolivar Jarrin Cahuenas is implicated.

They also agreed that clarification must be made of the charges by the Comptroller General's Office in its audits, which implicate, among other persons, the present Natural Resources and Energy Minister Gen Eduardo Semblantes Polanco.

Reference was made to the process of return to democracy in an atmosphere in which the dictatorship is playing for time, as shown by its latest measure postponing the elections. This will help the economic sectors which, since the beginning of the process, have tried to obstruct it.

The people's patience is being taxed and the people are being repelled by many things, it was said.

DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST CARTER'S VISIT BEGIN

PA060331 Paris AFP in Spanish 0201 GMT 6 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 5 Feb (AFP)--A rally was held here today to protest U.S. President James Carter's visit to Mexico on 14 February. The leftist communist unity and the Socialist Workers Party [PST] organized the rally, which was held at the monument to Lazaro Cardenas, the president who nationalized the country's oil industry. A PST spokesman said that "today's rally is the beginning of a widespread movement to tell Carter that our sovereignty is not for sale." According to observers, Carter will visit Mexico to negotiate the purchase of gas which the two countries have been discussing for more than a year without reaching agreement.

LOPEZ-PORTILLO REFUTES CHARGES OF VIOLATING CONSTITUTION

PA061530 Paris AFP in Spanish 1017 GMT 6 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 6 Feb (AFP)--Mexican President Jose Lopez-Portillo has refuted charges that the constitution was violated because of Pope John Paul II's visit to the country and he discouraged those who are urging the state to abandon its laity. The president established his position regarding the two issues during the main event held in Acapulco to commemorate the 62d anniversary of the present constitution which was the result of the revolution of 1910 and was signed in 1917.

Lopez-Portillo, who admitted that he was baptized but that he had lost his faith when he studied Hegel, declared: "Our country would be poor, very poor and sad, very sad if it had a system that would ban the religious representative of most Mexicans from coming to our country."

Many liberals accused the government--before the pope's arrival, during his stay and after he left--of violating the constitution by allowing the pope to come and carry out his activities here. The Mexican president said that although he does not believe in the dogma and does not practice the religion, he accepts Christian morality.

He stressed: "It is not valid to persecute the opinion, not even that of the priests, with the support of the constitution." He added: We could not ban a participating and orderly people such as ours from gathering at public places. They were exercising their freedom and that is good."

He admitted that many members of the clergy, mainly foreigners, circulated in the streets wearing their habits which violates the law on freedom of religion, but he said that the law itself sets the significance of the violation as it calls for a little more than a $2 fine.

"The contact (with the pope)," he continued, has occurred and because of it we are stronger and freer." He added: "The climate of freedom does not affect Juarez." Benito Juarez was the Mexican liberal who headed a struggle against the absolutist principles of certain church sectors in the 19th century and who founded the liberal doctrine that the Mexican state would uphold later on. In supporting his endorsement of the pope's visit, the Mexican president noted: "To convert dogma of any kind into government is to unleash absolutism...and that destroys our constitution in its very essence."

Finally, regarding the church-state relationship, he stressed: "The republic by definition, the republic by essence, the republic by destiny is and can only be secular."

FOREIGN TRADE INSTITUTE REPORTS 1978 TRADE FIGURES

PA031718 Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0400 GMT 3 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Mexican exports in 1978 totaled $5.4 billion, 125 billion pesos. This is a 31-percent increase in exports over the preceding year, 1977.

According to the Mexican Foreign Trade Institute, these exports--excluding oil--increased by 19 percent during the same period. The manufacturing sector increased sales abroad by (?29) percent due to the demand for automobiles, car parts, car chassis [estructuras para vehiculos], machinery and mechanical and electrical appliances.

According to the source, the [word indistinct] sector reported losses until last September, but it recovered in the last quarter of 1978, increasing by 7 percent. Traditional exports included chickpeas, cotton, chicle, [words indistinct] sesame and dried fruit. Imports, it must be noted, also grew by 38 percent, totaling $7 billion. From the foregoing figures it can be determined that the Mexican trade balance at the end of 1978 amounted to a deficit of ($2 billion)--that is, a 60-percent increase compared to 1977.

SWEDEN MAY PROCESS, DISTRIBUTE MEXICAN OIL IN EUROPE

PA311954 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1651 GMT 31 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 31 Jan (LATIN)--Sweden and Mexico may conclude an agreement this year whereby Swedish petrochemical plants would process Mexican crude oil and distribute it in Europe, it was officially reported here today.

The possibility was examined by the foreign ministers of the two countries, Hans Blix and Santiago Roel, after 5 days of talks that ended yesterday with the conclusion of a number of bilateral agreements between Sweden and Mexico.

The agreements cover the probable establishment of a Mexican-Swedish enterprise to produce nuclear fuel in Mexico as well as special agreements for joint investments in tourism and shipyards for the construction of the tankers required to transport the Mexican oil.

Blix, who will leave for Sweden today after concluding his official visit to Mexico, told the local press that his country wishes to obtain Mexican oil. However, after his meeting with Roel, it was indicated that this would be subject to Mexico's own requirements, which have already been set up to 1980.

For his part, Roel said that "thought can be given to selling crude to Sweden after that date. [quotation marks as received] Mexico currently produces 1.5 million barrels of oil a day. Less than one-third of this production is exported, mainly to the United States. However, PEMEX [Mexican Petroleum] has affirmed that all of its surplus production is sold up to 1980.

The two officials reported that in order to consolidate the plans of the two countries, it has been agreed to appoint a joint commission to also review the technical and industrial cooperation issues, the initial results of which should be noticeable within the next 2 months.

LIEVANO AGUIRRE CRITICAL OF U.S. MEDIA REPORTS ON COLOMBIA

PA061458 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Feb 79 PA

[Excerpt] Bogota--UN General Assembly President Indalecio Lievano Aguirre will not participate in political activity. He made this announcement on his return to the country after presiding over the UN assembly. On his return to Colombia, he said the following:

[Begin Lievano Aguirre recording] When I accepted the post of UN General Assembly president, I assumed obligations with the international community. My 1-year term began in September 1978 and ends in September 1979. During that time, [words indistinct] carry out a number of international responsibilities, such as presiding over the assembly which will meet in March and again in May or (?July). Therefore, my obligations with the international community have not terminated. It would not be serious on my part nor would I be fulfilling the obligations I assumed if I devoted myself to other activities. So I cannot make any plans before the end of my term as assembly president. [end recording]

Lievano Aguirre categorically rejected international news media reports charging that human rights are violated in Colombia. In reply to a question from Supernoticias, the UN president said that this situation is due to deficient information [words indistinct].

[Begin Lievano Aguirre recording] This is part of the U.S. press' generally deficient reporting of policies of Colombia and many Latin American countries. This is evident in the reports they file on the problem of cocaine and drugs. The way they present it gives the impression that U.S. society--so puritan, so good and so removed from all of this--is being corrupted by Colombian society. This does not correspond to reality. [Words indistinct] of some U.S. newsmen. [end recording]

FOREIGN MINISTER CONFIRMS PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO VENEZUELA

PA061200 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0406 GMT 6 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 5 Feb (EFE)--Colombian Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas confirmed today that President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala will visit Venezuela in March. According to the Caracol Radio Network, the Colombian president will visit Venezuela on 11, 12 and 13 March to attend the 12 March ceremony in which President Carlos Andres Perez will hand over power to Luis Herrera Campins.

Uribe Vargas disclosed that the Colombian delegation which will attend the inauguration will be headed by former presidential candidate Alvaro Gomez Hurtado. Other members of the delegation are Jorge Mario Eastman, president of the Chamber of Deputies; Humberto Gonzalez Narvaez, a former minister; Diana Turbay, daughter of President Turbay Ayala; and the present Colombian ambassador to Venezuela.

OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE SAYS MAJORITY OF WEAPONS RECOVERED

PA060429 Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 5 Feb 79 pp 1A, 5A PA

[Text of communique issued by the Information and Press Office of the Presidency of the Republic]

[Text] Bogota, 4 Feb--In a spectacular action unparalleled in the history of the country, the armed forces in record time have recovered more than 95 percent of the weapons stolen by the M-19 group from the Military Institutes Brigade [BIM] northern area and other weapons which had been brought to the country illegally for subversive purposes.

TUNA BOATS RELEASED FROM PUNTARENAS AFTER BOND PAID

PA070250 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 7 Feb 79 PA

[Text] At 1730 today, after a bond of over $300,000 had been paid, the Puntarenas higher court ordered the release of two tuna boats which have been held in custody in the bay for the past 19 days. The two boats, the Sea Fox and the Caribe, had been taken into custody by patrol boats and held for possible violation of laws governing fishing by foreign vessels. The two boats will reportedly be leaving Costa Rican waters soon after completing administrative procedures.

The radar rooms of the Sea Fox and the Caribe were inspected this afternoon. Assistant Director of the judicial investigation organization Rodrigo Araya, Attorney General Roberto (Steiner), two civil aviation technicians and Jaime Quintana, Edgar Quiros and Fernando Campos of the Puntarenas higher court were reportedly present.

The speed of the boats, the range of their radars and their navigation systems were also determined. Once these requirements, established by the judicial authorities, were met, the release of the tuna boats was ordered. It was determined that the Caribe uses a satellite navigation system while the Sea Fox uses the traditional sextant method.

GUATEMALA

NICARAGUAN MEDIATION COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE WITHDRAWN

PA070321 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0233 GMT 7 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 6 Feb (LATIN)--The president of the republic has decided to cancel the agreement by which Alfredo Obiols Gomez was appointed Guatemala's representative on the international commission for friendly cooperation and conciliatory efforts which was created to help find a peaceful solution to the grave Nicaraguan crisis.

In a brief bulletin, the Foreign Ministry said today that the government expressed satisfaction for having participated on the commission since, during this period, Nicaragua has made positive progress in eliminating the climate of violence, reestablishing individual and social guarantees, terminating martial law and curfew violence, issuing a general political amnesty decree and beginning the processing of pardons and the abolition of the restrictive measures against the freedom of thought, in addition to eliminating press and broadcasting censorship.

Obiols Gomez was part of the OAS commission together with Emilio Jiménez from the Dominican Republic and William Bowdler from the United States.

HONDURAS

TIEMPO REPORTS GUATEMALAN PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL

PA061610 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1445 GMT 6 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 6 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Guatemalan President Gen Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia has proposed to the Honduran military junta "the need to combat the guerrilla movements in Central America."

The local paper TIEMPO reported this here today, indicating that "this was admitted by Honduran Foreign Minister Roberto Palma Galvez after speaking with the military government junta yesterday in its weekly audience."

The paper indicated that the Guatemalan president's proposal was expressed openly and that the Honduran foreign minister also reported that the subjects of reforestation, agriculture and economy were discussed with the same interest as that of guerrillas. Guerrilla movements of various ideologies operate in Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua, countries which are experiencing tense moments due to terrorist actions. In the case of Nicaragua, the country is practically in the midst of a civil war.

According to TIEMPO, Palma Galvez hinted that he was not fully aware of the details of the meeting between the Guatemalan and Honduran rulers, but he added that the Central American situation is of concern to the governments of both countries. Honduras has stated internally and externally that it will remain neutral in the face of the domestic conflicts of neighboring countries.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL DENIES COSTA RICAN NEWSPAPER CHARGES

PA061840 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1612 GMT 6 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 6 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Herman Allan Padgett, press secretary of the Honduran military government, today responded to charges made by the Costa Rican newspaper, LA REPUBLICA, alleging that a conspiracy against Costa Rica exists.

"In the meeting held last week by the chiefs of government of Guatemala, Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia, and Honduras, Gen Policarpo Paz Garcia, nobody maneuvered against a third country of the area," Padgett asserted. According to LA REPUBLICA, Lucas Garcia and Paz Garcia "reportedly made a secret pact against Costa Rica in their meeting last Thursday."

"Aside from being unfounded, the Costa Rican newspaper's assertion is rash and irresponsible," said the official Honduran spokesman, "with charges of maneuvers against a Central American government by two governments of the area, and that is [words indistinct]."

Padgett added that the Honduran-Guatemalan presidential meeting "was so private and confidential that is impossible that the Costa Rican Government could have any substantiation for its report."

He also emphasized that it is logical for Central American chief executives to meet to seek solutions to bilateral or regional problems "since the intention is to work in unison."

NICARAGUA

NATIONAL GUARD POSITIONS ON BORDER HARASSED

PA070212 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2341 GMT 6 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 6 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--According to military reports, Nicaraguan National Guard positions on the Costa Rican border have been attacked by guerrillas every 2 hours since Sunday. The attacks are being launched from Costa Rica, according to reports supplied to ACAN-EFE today by Brig Ben Gonzalo Evertz, commander of the border zone. The officer said that peasant Isidro Mairena was shot to death by Sandinists yesterday as he walked between Cardenas and El Pizote. National Guard spokesmen in Managua said yesterday that an unidentified light plane entered Nicaraguan airspace in the are of Poco Sol, Rio San Juan Department, also on the Costa Rican border. This air incursion occurred at approximately 0900 (1500 GMT), and 1 hour later a patrol guarding the region was attacked by a guerrilla column which fled back into Costa Rica when the soldiers resisted attack.

After a skirmish last Sunday, the National Guard found traces of blood when it inspected the area. Therefore, it is presumed that one or more guerrillas were wounded.

The border at Penas Blancas, where the international crossing between the two countries is located, was closed for 2 hours yesterday by the sporadic insurgent attacks. Seventy-mm mortars and .50-caliber machineguns are being fired at national military posts from hills in the neighboring country.

The National Guard disclosed details of those actions on the southern bordor, which do not seem to be decreasing despite the presence of the civilian OAS observers. A National Guard spokesman also revealed the killing of Pvt Asuncion Lopez by unknown assailants. He was the driver of a personnel carrier assigned to defend the Matagalpa command, 127 km north of Managua. The soldier was walking past the Guanuca Theater in Matagalpa when he was shot to death from a speeding car.

Meanwhile, Managua Police Chief Col Nicolas Valle Salinas today showed newsmen a cache of arms of various calibers, ammunition, military uniforms, camouflaged clothing, dynamite, Sandinist propaganda and chemicals such as glycerin, sulfuric acid, gasoline and other flammable materials used to manufacture bombs. According to the police, the arms and materials were found in the possession of Carlos Benavides Rodriguez, Giovanni Gomez Fonseca, Sidar Jara Cordero, Alfonso Gutierrez Padilla, Marcos Campos and journalist Jose Ramon Aguilar Guevara. The police chief accused these persons of being members of a Sandinist cell. They have been placed at the disposal of the "supreme army command" and, after an investigation is made, will be turned over to the competent authorities. They were captured in different parts of Managua, some of them in a large military dragnet.

Meanwhile, newspapers reported that Enrique Duarte and Guillermo Lopez Mayorga, who were shot to death in Cuesta del Plomo, western Managua, last Sunday, had been arrested for illegal possession of arms and contact bombs. Colonel Valle Salinas denied the report.

Elsewhere, 20 mothers from the Monimbo Indian district of Masaya went before the Permanent Human Rights Commission and the archbishop today seeking support. They want to find their sons who were violently removed from their own homes and arrested for supposed subversive activities. Their whereabouts are not known and the mothers fear for their sons' lives.

MANAGUA COMMANDER REPORTS ARREST OF YOUTHS

PA061956 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1904 GMT 6 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 6 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Managuan Police Commander Col Nicolas Valle Salinas today reported the discovery of several weapons and ammunition in this capital in the hands of a group of youths who were arrested on Sunday.

The items the police found in homes in this capital include a "Madsen" machinegun, shotguns, ammunition, explosives and Marxist literature.

Juan Ramon Aguilar Guevara, a newsman who graduated from the school of journalism at the national university, was mentioned by the police commander as one of the members of an alleged cell of the Sandinist National Liberation Front which operated in this city.

The other youths arrested are Marcos Campos Garcia, Alfonso Gutierrez Padilla, Giovani Gomez Fonseca and Carlos Benavides.

Valle Salinas told newsmen that he could not show the prisoners on the orders of the "army general command."

BLAS ROCA EXPLAINS ELECTORAL PROCESS, URGES CITIZENS TO VOTE

FL061124 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Feb 79 FL

[Text] Blas Roca, member of the PCC Politburo and president of the People's Government National Assembly, has called on all the people to use the current process of nomination of delegates to municipal people's government which began yesterday to consolidate people's government in this 20th year of victory.

During a television appearance last night, Blas Roca stressed the importance of the process that will continue until 25 February, because from the nominated candidates will come the delegates that will be elected in the 8 and 15 April elections by direct and secret votes. He added that on 5 March the photographs and biographic sketches of the nominees will be shown in areas of easy access in the electoral districts so that the voters can make their own decision on who will get their vote.

Roca also explained that voter identification cards will be issued each vote until 23 March, and that this is the only document permitted at the polling place giving the right to vote. He pointed out that the card must be carefully safeguarded for use at any revocation [as heard] and election that might be organized until 1984. If in 1888 Marti said that in a republic a man who does not vote is like a soldier who deserts an army, today, in the real democracy of our socialist state, this more profoundly true, Roca said.

He went on to say that in only 2 years of existence, the people's government organs have proven to be the proper means to establish a constant and systematic participation of the masses in the decisions of the state. At the end of his remarks, Blas Roca called for consolidating the people's government in this 20th year of victory, promoting and consolidating it during this electoral process, and nominating the best men as municipal candidates to these organs.

He stated that persons who are performing diplomatic internationalist or other types of missions abroad or on fishing ships on the high seas will be unable to vote. It will also be difficult for hospitalized persons to vote, although it is possible that their vote might be arranged. He added that specail electoral districts will be maintained for boarding students in schools far from their homes and for combatants of the youth labor army and militarymen.

Lastly, he emphasized that the order for voting has been established according to the time of arrival at the polling place and priority will be given only to the very elderly or [words indistinct].

NONALINED COUNTRIES BROADCASTING EXPERTS CONCLUDE MEETING

FL070041 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Feb 79 FL

[Text] The meeting of experts of the nonalined countries Radio and Television Cooperation Committee, which began on 2 February at the Havana Libre Hotel's Solidarity Hall, concluded just a few minutes ago. Commander of the Revolution Guillermo Garcia Frias, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers; Council of Ministers Vice President and PCC Central Committee member Jose Ramon Fernandez; Communications Minister and PCC Central Committee member Pedro Guelmes; Cuban Radio and Television Institute President Nivaldo Herrera; heads of delegations attending the event and Cuban party and government leaders were sitting at the dais during the closing session.

Meeting in our country on this occasion were the group of experts for radio broadcasting via satellite and the group of experts organizing the delegation of nonalined countries to the 1979 world administrative conference on radio communications.

The closing remarks were made by Communications Minister Pedro Quelmes, who referred to the importance of this meeting and the fruitful results achieved.

FIDEL CASTRO CONGRATULATES ALGERIA'S BENDJEDID

FL061227 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 6 Feb 79 FL

[Text] Our commander in chief, Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee, has sent a congratulatory message to Chadly Bendjedid on the occasion of his election as secretary general of the Algerian National Liberation Front [FLN]. The message stresses that the fact that the principles formulated by the immortal and unforgettable Houari Boumediene and in the National Charter were strongly and categorically expressed and reasserted at the recent Fourth FLN Congress is a great incentive for our people. It adds that these principles show the way for the great economic and social transformations and the expressions of solidarity with other peoples who are struggling against imperialism.

Lastly, Fidel's message to Chadly Bendjedid wishes him success in his important and historic mission. It also expresses to him our determination to further strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation between our parties and peoples in the common struggle against imperialism and for socialism.

ELENA GIL CHAIRS WPC COMMITTEE OF SUPPORT FOR NONALINED

FL061748 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 6 Feb 79 FL

[Text] Berlin--The World Peace Council [WPC] has just created a committee to support the work of the nonalined countries movement and it is headed by WPC Vice President Elena Gil. During its extraordinary conference held in Berlin from 2 to 5 February, the WPC created the committee which will work on the common objectives of the struggle for peace.

Elena Gil, who is president of the Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of Peoples, today told PRENSA LATINA that the working committee will allow greater cooperation between the WPC and the nonalined movement. At the first committee meeting, she added, the work done in preparation for the nonalined countries movement and WPC meeting to be held in Jamaica was examined. In this regard, the results of the meeting held in Havana last December by representatives of 15 countries were discussed.

The WPC, Elena Gil said, recognizes that the nonalined countries movement is a mighty and substantial force in contemporary international relations. The WPC and the nonalined movement want to promote peace, peaceful coexistence and disarmament and denounce the general factors and causes that generate tension and conflicts. The seminar that will be held in Jamaica, the Cuban leader explained, will have the task of identifying points of agreement and drawing up a plan of measures aimed at strengthening the solidary ties between these two independent forces. Creation of the committee is also aimed at promoting support for the nonalined movement on the basis that the WPC and the movement have certain common tasks and enemies.

BARBADOS

BARBADOS LABOR PARTY ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

FL251600 Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 22 Jan 79 p 1 FL

[Excerpt] Mr Hasim Degia was elected general-secretary of the ruling Barbados Labour Party (BLP) at the first day of the party's two-day annual conference at Marine House yesterday. Mr Degia polled 119 votes, defeating the other contender, Mr Howard Roberts, by 28 votes. Mr Degia's predecessor, Senator O'Brein Trotman, did not seek re-election. Senator Randoph Field was returned unopposed as treasurer.

9.5-PERCENT INFLATION RATE REPORTED FOR 1978

FL311600 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 29 Jan 79 p 11 FL

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, 27 Jan (CANA)--The Barbados Central Bank has released figures here showing that the island's inflation rate for 1978 was 9.5 percent--much high than the level that government economists had forecast at the start of the year.

The rate is computed on the basis of the average increase in prices from January to December. So far this year there has been some movement in retail prices in food and other goods, but no visible spiral that could be ascribed to higher prices for oil levied by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), a rise by 14.5 percent to be effected in four phases through the year. But watchers of the Barbadian economy have said that petrol dealers are assessing higher import costs and distributors' profit margin, and that it was only a matter of time before government action would be demanded for increasing the price of petroleum products. The island gets from local wells just under one-third of its crude oil requirements, and this is refined here also. The bulk of its imported crude comes from Venezuela.

Giving some details on the 1978 inflation rate, the Central Bank said that the retail price index closed in December on 398.8 points, compared with 358.4 points at the end of 1977, which year had brought an average price increase of 8.3 percent. The December level was 6.6 points above the 392.2 points in November, the figures showed. The principal price movements between November and December were said to have been in food and beverage--10.2 points, or 2.3 percent; household operations and furnishings--5.8 points, or 1.8 percent; and housing--0.5 points, or 0.1 percent.

JAMAICA

JLP LEADER SEAGA WITHDRAWS RESIGNATION

FL051505 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 1 Feb 79 pp 1, 11 FL

[Excerpts] Edward Seaga, who quit on January 22 as leader of the Jamaica Labour Party [JLP], has withdrawn his resignation. According to a party statement issued last night, "this was done in response to the urgent demand of thousands of Jamaicans and of the officers and members of the standing committee of the party." The statement, signed by Deputy Secretary Ossie Harding, said that the problems referred to by Mr Seaga in his letter of resignation "were discussed and dealt with by the officers and members of the standing committee to his satisfaction." In announcing his resignation last week Thursday, Mr Seaga said he had resigned because he was not receiving the full cooperation necessary to make his leadership effective. The party statement yesterday did not elaborate on the problems referred to by Mr Seaga.